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Korean Nonaggression Pact Is Offered From the North

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TOKYO, July 21 — North Korea today proposed holding a joint parliamentary meeting with South Korea next month to discuss a nonaggression pact. The offer is the latest of a series of proposals to ease tensions between the two neighbors.

North Korea's official press agency, monitored in Tokyo, said the proposal was made in a letter sent today to the Speaker of South Korea's National Assembly, Kim Chae Sun. According to South Korean news reports, Mr. Kim's aides said he had received the letter, but declined to discuss its contents and said Seoul would have no immediate response.

The proposal today follows several overtures by South Korea to the North. Two weeks ago, President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea proposed allowing trade, family visits and student exchanges between the two nations, and said South Korea would encourage its allies, including the United States, to improve relations with North Korea. Last week, South Korea proposed that South and North Korean students march through the two nations, hold meetings and plan sports exchanges.

North Rejects Roh Proposals

North Korea has rejected these proposals and today offered instead to act as host for the first joint parliamentary meeting in its capital, Pyongyang, in August, a month before the Olympic Games in Seoul.

South Korea has expressed concern that the North, angry at the failure of its demand to serve as co-host for the Games, might mount a terrorist attack during the Olympics. South Korean news reports today said North Korea's letter was in response to one sent by the South Korean National Assembly on Monday urging the North to take part in the Games.

Both North and South Korea have proposed nonaggression pacts before, only to have the other side reject the idea. North Korea has also proposed parliamentary exchanges, arguing that because opposition groups now have a parliamentary majority, a parliamentary meeting would be more representative of South Korea than a Government-to-Government meeting.

The two sides held discussions in the spring of 1985 about possible parliamentary exchanges, but the talks broke off. Mr. Roh did not raise the possibility of a parliamentary meeting in his previous proposal.

Contents of the Letter

The North Korean letter, sent to Mr. Kim through the truce village of Panmunjom on the Demilitarized Zone, was translated by the North Korean Central News Agency into English. The English text said in part: "Neither to the South nor the North is confrontation and war beneficial. They cannot be

good to the Olympic Games either."

North Korea proposed holding parliamentary talks first in Pyongyang, to be hosted by the chairman of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly, and then in Seoul, to be hosted by the Speaker of South Korea's National Assembly.

The letter also included a draft of a nonaggression pact, declaring that the North and the South would not use force against each other and would make phased reductions in weapons and gradual withdrawals of foreign forces and nuclear weapons.

Issue of U.S. Troops

North Korea has long protested the stationing of more than 40,000 United States troops in South Korea and has called South Korea a puppet regime. But the North did not insist on any withdrawal of American forces as a condition for talks. The North Korean

Overtures are
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succession from
both sides.

draft also proposes that an inspection force made up of neutral nations be stationed on the DMZ.

In a clear reference to South Korean proposals that the two Koreas trade freely and hold exchanges of citizens, North Korea said that a nonaggression pact must come first.

"Exchange of visits and trade are impossible, reconciliation and unity cannot be achieved and relations of cooperation cannot be established without resolving the fundamental problems between the North and the South, which remain virtual enemies to each other," the English text of the letter said.

It is not clear what Seoul's response will be. Mr. Roh is under considerable public pressure to improve relations with the North. Student demonstrations have placed reunification with the North at the top of the political agenda.

The Government is anxious to avoid any repetition of an incident like the one that occurred on June 10, when violence broke out as the police forcibly blockaded a student march to Panmunjom to meet with North Korean students. South Korean students have pledged to try again on Aug. 15.

Despite the public pressure for better relations, it is possible that South Korea will regard the North's proposal as a ploy to draw worldwide attention to Pyongyang before the Olympics.